Ohio County Commission
August 1, 2023

The Ohio County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Donald A. Nickerson. The Pledge of Alliance was recited.

On a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the Ohio County Commission convened a Public Hearing regarding the proposed second TIF district, as well as simultaneously combing TIF I and TIF II.

- Mr. Gene South, a resident of Triadelphia that lives behind the Citgo gas station heard Mr. Russell speak at the Triadelphia Village Council meeting. In March 2020, Mr. South had eight inches of mud and rain in his basement. The mud included wood chips. He is concerned about the runoff from the district.
- Ms. Pat Roxby voiced the same concerns as Mr. South. She stated she has more water flowing around her house since the inception of the Highlands. She feels retaining ponds are of concern and has dug over 1,000 feet of drain ditches around her home.
- Mr. Randy Russell stated there are 12 detention ponds at the Highlands and the Ohio County Development Authority has spent millions of dollars to maintain the area. The acid mine drainage was inherited by the Ohio County Development Authority from the coal mine 23 years ago.
- Mr. Randy Wharton stated stream blockage upstream tends to be a major cause of flooding. He would be happy to pass along the Army Corp of Engineers number to help clean up the streams. He also stated there are no storefronts planned on Middle Creek Road.
- Mr. Zach Abraham stated the interchange depends on the Department of Highways. The preferred design was sent to the Town of Triadelphia to review.
- Mr. Tom Hoffman is also concerned with the runoff but hopes a second interchange would help to alleviate the number of accidents.
- Ms. Judith Castow commented that samples showed the land could not support the proposed water park.

There being no further business to discuss, the public hearing was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Randy Wharton, with a second by Mr. Zach Abraham. Motion carried.

Delegations:

- Ms. Sharon Mendelson, of Tierra Estates, spoke concerning the non-stop noise from the frack pads located near her home. The noise is non-stop and high decibel sounds can be heard at all hours of the day and night. The drilling process lasts 30 days, non-stop. From her front porch, she has witnessed fire on the well pads, of which SWN is the operator. She also stated the super-frac is back which drills up to ten times on the same pad. She is asking the County Commission to consider a noise ordinance.

- Mr. Nickerson stated the County Commission met with SWN, Tunnel Ridge, and the Sheriff to try to elevate the problem. He further stated he would touch base with SWN concerning the issue.

The minutes were reviewed. Mr. Abraham asked that the verbiage in relation to sick / vacation time be corrected. Once corrected, a motion to approve was made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Grants:

- The Federation of Humane Organizations of WV, Inc. – This grant, for the animal shelter, allows us to apply for up to $30,000.00 with no required match. Approval to apply for the grant made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Community Grants:

- Ancient Order of Hibernians – This road bowling event will be held in September. The Commission asked for more financial information. Pending the receipt of the information, Mr. Abrham made a motion to approve $2,500.00 for the event, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Upper Ohio Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's – This event will also be held in September. The Commission asked for more financial information. Pending receipt of the information, Mr. Wharton made a motion to approve $500.00 for the event, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Oglebay Foundation – Mr. Russell will reach out to Oglebay to gather more information. A motion to table the request was made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- Travel Policy – Mr. Tennant will review the Travel Policy and provide commentary. Motion to table the policy made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Carpet Quotes – Quotes were received from three local vendors. The Flooring Center had the lowest quote. Motion to approve the quote and order the carpet for the Commission Office made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.
- No Zoning Letter for Gumby's – The business, located on Cruzier Road in Triadelphia, requested approval for no zoning and an ABCA letter. Mr. Wharton made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried with Mr. Nickerson abstaining.
- Bethlehem EMS Contract Renewal – After review, the Commissioner's approved extending the existing agreement for one additional year. Motion to approve the agreement after Mr. Tennant's review made by Mr. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Resolution to Create TIF II – A Geotechnical Engineer was contacted to look at the ponds. Ms. Cecil, from Frost Brown Todd, commented this Resolution broadly defines the boundaries of the TIF and creates funding mechanisms. Mr. Abrham commented he would like someone to visit Ms. Roxby's house to look at the trenches that have been

dug. A motion to table the Resolution was made by Mr. Wharton, seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

- Resolution to combine TIF I and TIF II – Resolution tabled due to actions made on TIF II.
- Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation Contract – A lease extension of three years was reviewed. According to the agreement, Corrections will be paid $18.00, per inmate, per day. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.
- Wheeling-Ohio County Airport – Task Order 8, in the amount of $197,442.00, was recently approved by the FAA. Motion to approve Task Order 8 made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

Staff / Elected Officials Reports:

- Administrator Russell – The Animal Shelter was the recipient of a generous contribution in the amount of $51,000.00. During the annual Rabies Clinics, 311 vaccines were provided by Drs. Harrold, Shondrick, Yurko, and Key. Touch A Truck, put on by the Holy Family Child Care Development Center, will be held at the Highlands Sports Complex this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At the Airport, the air conditioning has gone down in the FAA equipment room. This is considered an emergency and it must be replaced. Quotes were obtained and Johnson Boiler was chosen to replace the equipment on a motion made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried. Mr. Russell stated a Citizen Fire Board member is still needed to fill an expired term on the board.
- Facilities – Ms. Marco provided the Commissioners with an HVAC update. Work will begin in October / November with a larger crew. A schedule has been reviewed and we are working to collapse phases to get the project back on schedule. The elevator in the Annex did not pass inspection due to issues in the elevator machine room. We are working to correct the issues quickly to get the elevator operational as quickly as possible.
- Emergency Services
    - Mr. Vargo – Schools will be back in session in late August. Mr. Vargo met with Dr. Miller, Ohio County Schools Superintendent, to discuss Stop the Bleed Kits. To date, seven kits have been obtained free of charge. A full scale active shooter exercise is planned. On Wednesday, Mr. Vargo will meet with the hospital on how to handle an influx of patients. On Monday, a team of professionals will work to develop policies on how to handle an active shooter situation. From there, the policy will be implemented in September at the Active Shooter Training. Emergency Services will also be hosting the U.S. Coast Guard Meeting in August. Wheeling Hospital donated an AED and Mr. Vargo will train a Volunteer Fire Department on the equipment on August 8. Mr. Tennant applauded Mr. Vargo for his successful coordination of landing a helicopter in an area which was quite rural and time was crucial.
    - Sheriff Howard – Sheriff Tom Howard was not in attendance. Maj. Rod Vaught and John Shultz attended the meeting to discuss three topics: 1. Handgun replacement, 2. Cruiser purchases, 3. Laptop replacement.

- Mr. Shultz stated the weapons are now six years old and 60 will be needed. After the ammunition is bought back, the $72,000.00 anticipated cost will be reduced to $52,000.00. Mr. Abrham asked how often the handguns should be replaced and Mr. Shultz stated six years is typical.
- At the current time, they have 60 handguns, with 10 being held back. Qualifications for handguns are completed twice a year.
- Mr. Abraham inquired how often the weapons are sent for maintenance. It was stated the weapons have ultrasonic maintenance and Drage Flick is training to be an armorer. Mr. Wharton inquired if the Department was in crisis mode, and it was stated they are not at this time.
- Mr. Nickerson said the information presented would be taken under advisement.
- Next, Maj. Vaught and Mr. Shultz stated nine cruisers will hit over 100,000 miles and they are currently exploring new Tahoe's. Mr. Wharton again expressed the need for Sheriff Howard to attend these meetings to discuss these large expenditures.
- Five new Tahoe's were just ordered. To date, four have arrived and one is expected shortly.
- Mr. Abraham asked if the Department has a rotation schedule. He stated it would be much easier to budget replacements because it will be hard to get 7-8 vehicles at a time. He stated it would be easier to get five (for instance) each year and rotate on a continual basis. He stressed this should be done with handguns, vehicles, laptops, etc.
- At last count, the Sheriff's Department had 50 total vehicles.
- During the year, Patrol puts approximately 18,000 miles on a vehicle, while Administrative Staff place about 6,000 miles on a vehicle per year.
- Maj. Vaught said he would like to budget for seven vehicles annually.
- To date, there are 32 sworn and certified Deputies. At this time, two are at the Academy.
- Of these, 24 are on patrol.
- Bailiffs and Court personnel will go out on patrol.
- With regards to the laptops, Highway Safety Funding has ended. The laptops are $1,800 each. They need to be rugged and handle the Apps needed. Laptops are assigned to people, not cars.
- At this time, they are deficient six laptops.
- Mr. Abraham again stressed the need for a rotation schedule.
- Mr. Russell said he would reach out to a grant writing contact who ran a collaborative effort between WVU and Marshall to see if any monies were available.
- Warranties are purchased on the laptops.
- Mr. Shultz stated there are 130 people at the PRO conference.

Finance:

- Mr. Archey reported the bills are up to date. Motion to approve the bills was made by Mr. Abraham, with a second by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried. Mr. Archey also reported the unpaid invoices were not approved at the time of the check run. No further action is

needed. Mr. Archey presented the exonerations for consideration. Motion to approve made by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Wharton. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Donald A. Nickerson, President

Randel A. Russell, Administrator